

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Logistics Operations School  
Marine Corps Combat Service Support School  
PSC Box 20041  
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-0041

LS203  
OCT 1999

**STUDENT OUTLINE**

**ERECT BEACH MARKER/OFFLOAD POINT PANEL**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

a. **TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Given the requirement to establish a beach support area (BSA), requirement to visually identify sites, beach marker panels, the diagram/overlay of the BSA from the operation plan (OPLAN) and necessary tools and equipment, as a member of a team, erect beach marker/offload point panels in accordance with FM 4-3 (0481.01.02)

b. **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

(1) Given a list of beach marker/offload point panels, without the aid of references, describe each panel in accordance with FMFM 4-3 (0481.01.02a)

(2) Given a beach support area (BSA), without the aid of references, as a member of a team, determine the location of each beach marker/offload point panel in accordance with FMFM 4-3 (0481.01.02b)

(3) Provided a beach marker/offload point panel and tools, as a member of a team, position the marker panels in accordance with FMFM 4-3. (0481.01.02c)

(4) Provided a beach marker/offload point panel and tools, as a member of a team, anchor the panels in accordance with FM 4-3. (0481.01.02d)

**OUTLINE**

1. **DESCRIBE EACH PANEL:**

The limits of the beach are marked by a center and flank markers. These markers come in **red, blue, green, yellow, and white**. The color is designated prior to the assault and each corresponds with a specific beach. All of the flank and center beach markers should be of the same color to identify that color beach.

a. The center beach marker designates the location of center beach. Its size is 6' by 6'.

b. The left flank marker designates the left lateral limit of the beach. Its size is 2.5 feet by 12 feet horizontally.

c. The right flank marker designates the right lateral limit of the beach. It is 2.5 feet by 12 feet vertically. The center, right, and left flank markers designate the limits of the beach.

d. Unloading point markers mark the unloading points for landing craft. Use the following markers to designate the points.

(1) Medical evacuation - A red cross on a white background.

(2) Tracked vehicle - A green diamond on a white background.

(3) Wheeled vehicles - A solid white panel.

(4) Ammunition - A red shell on a white background.

(5) Fuel - A yellow funnel on a black background.

(6) Rations - A blue "C" on a white background.

(7) Miscellaneous - Red, yellow, and blue stripes on a white background.

## **2. DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF EACH BEACH MARKER/OFFLOAD POINT PANEL:**

The beach markers/offload point panels are set up 20ft before the high tied mark. They will be set up along the beach facing the landing crafts/ships to direct them in closest to the dump site areas. You will not set each beach marker by each dump site. The dump sites will be located somewhere relatively behind the beach marker.

## **3. POSITION THE MARKER PANELS:**

Inorder to ensure that you will be able to conduct beach operations prior to mounting out, you must insure that all your equipment is in proper condition and your equipment has all its components.

a. Beach poles are made in two sections which collapse in the middle. Each section is six feet in length and when

connected extend to twelve feet. If the connecting mechanism is broken, it will render the beach pole unserviceable. When a beach pole is rendered unserviceable, it is recommended that you retain all serviceable parts as extras because on many occasions when you receive a new beach pole, it will not come complete.

b. Panel marker fasteners are clamp type fasteners with a clip attached. They used to attach panel markers to beach poles and without them, you will hinder the operation. There are normally six panel marker fasteners on each beach pole.

c. Beach pole guide wire is made of one quarter inch cable and is approximately eighteen feet long.

It is connected to the upper section of the beach pole by an eyelet attached at the top center. There are two guide wires per beach pole.

d. There are two beach pole stakes which have one guide wire locking device each. The locking device works by pulling out on a spring foot release which releases pressure on three ball bearings which disengages tension on the guide wire. Prior to assembling the ground wire to the locking device, ensure that the guide wire is free of frays. If you do not, it will jam the locking device which could damage the system. Cut off all frays with wire cutters to prevent fouling and damage to the locking device.

e. Panel markers are torn very easily. Take extra care when they are being assembled and disassembled to the beach poles. If a panel marker gets torn, replace it with a new one. If a new one does not exist, repair it. If you are on operations and it gets torn, you can use a sewing kit or tent repair kit to sew the torn portion together, but you must turn it into supply and get a new one upon completion of the operation.

f. After insuring that all of the parts and components are present and serviceable, you can begin erecting the beach panel marker. First of all you need two beach poles for each panel. Each pole is twelve feet long Lay the poles down on the ground, six feet apart and attach the panel to the pole.

#### **4. ANCHOR THE PANELS:**

a. When working with the guy lines attached to the beach poles ensure you are wearing workman gloves to avoid injury to your hands. The only other tools needed is a flat head screw driver, pliers to adjust the panel marker fasteners and sledge hammer to drive the stakes into the ground.

b. Lay the quarter inch cable wire on the outboard side of the poles.

c. Now stand at the base of the pole facing outboard.  
Have your feet at a 45 degree angle.

Then in the direction of each foot at three paces take the stakes that are attached to the guy lines and drive them in the ground at a 45 degree angle away from the poles.

Make sure that the guy lines are loose.

d. Take the poles and stand them up and push into ground.

Then, take the guy lines and tighten them up. The panel is now installed.

**REFERENCE:**

1. FMFM 4-3